

SCHOOL DISTRICT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, April 20, 2006
ASU Decision Theater – Tempe, Arizona

Martin Shultz called the meeting to order at 2.34 p.m. and attendance was noted by Sharon Ng.

Members Present

Doris Goodale
Michael Hunter
Rita Leyva
George A. Martinez
Dave Naugle
Kent Scribner
Martin Shultz
Joseph Thomas

Members Absent

Vicki Anderson
Jay Blanchard
Dr. Sandra Dowling
Art Harding
Thomas Schoaf

Welcome

Chairman Martin Shultz called the meeting to order at 2:35 pm. The public attendees were introduced to the Commissioners.

Review of Public Meetings to Date

During a discussion of the public hearings, Chairman Shultz noted that it is important to just go out there and get the public used to the new-ness of the hearings.

George A. Martinez discussed the Yavapai Public Hearing. Overall, he said that it was a good public hearing. He managed to “humanize” the presentation and had Michael Hunter’s assistance with the terminology. He had a healthy dialogue with those present – approximately forty to forty-five individuals were present, which included twenty different districts, and three to five school district superintendents. He did note that the presentation needed to be fine-tuned. Last, Mr. Martinez thanked Rita Leyva for organizing the use of such nice facilities.

Dave Naugle discussed the Tucson Public Hearing. At the second public hearing, more handouts were available in addition to a Pima County school district map. Mr. Naugle suggests that the Commission have more maps available from the counties that public hearings are held. Mr. Naugle “sped” through the power point, which was facilitated by having the definitions available on a separate handout. Districts from Pima to Cochise were present in addition to the Tucson Chamber of Commerce.

Michael Hunter stated that both Mr. Martinez and Mr. Naugle did a good job. He pointed out that individuals at the public hearings were concerned about expanding unified school districts via swallowing smaller districts into larger districts. Mr. Hunter also said that there should be terminology for a district that is growing into its own unified district, such as Ruth Fisher, Shadow Mountain, Vail, or Tanque Verde.

Chairman Shultz pointed out that it is difficult to have enough public hearings that affect enough school districts. Mr. Shultz will give the presentation at the Phoenix Public Hearing, which is scheduled at Phoenix College on 3 May 2005 at Phoenix College (15th Ave. and Thomas).

New Business

Mr. Naugle moved to have George A. Martinez appointed as the vice-chairperson of the School District Redistrict Commission. Because of Mr. Martinez’s familiarity with both Maricopa and Pima counties, he is well suited. There were several seconds to the motion. Pursuant a vote, Mr. Martinez was elected the vice-chairman of the School District Redistricting Commission.

After the motion, the commissioners moved to the Decision Theater to take a look at its facilities.

Decision Theater Tour

Rick Shangraw, Executive Director of the Decision Theater, introduced himself and Deirdre Hahn, Assistant Director of Projects and Outreach of the Decision Theater. He then described that the purpose of the Decision Theater is to help decision making in complex problems.

Rick Shangraw walked the Commissioners through a presentation on the capabilities of the Decision Theater and how it can be useful to the Commission. A copy of this presentation is attached.

Rick and Deirdre allowed the Commissioners to use some of the equipment to run through a hypothetical example to see how it could be used to help the Commissioners with their task.

Finally, Rick Shangraw asked the Commissioners to begin thinking how to communicate their progress with the public. He suggested using Google Earth as a mechanism to help with public communication.

Discussion of Next Steps and Data Needed to Best Utilize the Decision Theater

Marty Shultz requested that before the next meeting Commissioners should communicate with Gretchen Kitchel the factors that they think are relevant in determining possible unification of districts. Marty then asked Gretchen to determine if any data associated with the suggested factors are available and to have the list ready to present to the Commissioners by the next meeting.

Adjourn

Chairman Shultz adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.

Minutes taken by: Sharon Ng and Gretchen Kitchel